

THE CURE BECOMES STRONG

Active Demand Develops and Some New-High Records Are Made.

Trading in the curb market started with an irregular and quiet tone yesterday, but that condition did not last long and a strong tone developed. In the leading there was an unusually active demand for stocks, with some new high records and large advances being established. Most interest was attached to the dealing in the industrial special, in which most of the late activity occurred.

General Asphalt featured the afternoon part of the session with advances of 5 points in common and preferred, the first named rising to a new high record. Fairbanks Company stock was in demand and Swift International rose more than a point. Strength was noticeable also in Libby, McNeill & Libby, Fisk Rubber Tire, Union Carbide and Stewart Manufacturing, some of which being traded for the first time.

The oil stocks were moderately active but displayed a firm undertone. Midwest Refining rose early to a new high for the present movement. The common stock advanced to \$25 a share and the new stock offering by the Merritt Oil Corporation which is not taken up by stockholders at that price.

Shell Petroleum was an exception to the general list and showed a heavy tone throughout the session.

Bonds also increased in activity and were generally higher. Russian Government bonds advanced more than a point and Philadelphia Company 6s went to new high ground. There were initial sales of Public Service of New Jersey new 7 per cent notes.

Total sales and range of prices follow:

Stocks	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Am. Express	100	98	99	+2
Am. Sugar	100	98	99	+2
Am. Tobacco	100	98	99	+2
Am. Water	100	98	99	+2
Am. Zinc	100	98	99	+2
Am. Iron	100	98	99	+2
Am. Steel	100	98	99	+2
Am. Copper	100	98	99	+2
Am. Lead	100	98	99	+2
Am. Tin	100	98	99	+2

IT'S LARGEST BUSINESS.

Metropolitan Life Breaks Record During 1918.

The statement of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for 1918 shows that during that year that company did the largest business in its history. Total business for the year was placed at \$882,240,609, of which \$419,311,863 was industrial. Most small policies were held by wage earners. In ordinary or larger policies business amounted to \$462,938,744. Assets increased during the year more than \$71,000,000, the report shows, while policy holders were paid during that time \$12,391,244, or at the rate of \$566.50 a minute of each business day of eight hours.

The number of policies reached 13,784,261 and the total insurance outstanding at the end of the year was \$4,429,511,816, breaking all records. Claims due to the influenza epidemic and paid amounted to about \$18,000,000.

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THE TOPICS OF THE COMMERCIAL WORLD

CLOTHIERS HOLD UP PLAN FOR BUREAU

New Draft of Proposed Labor Problem Body to Be Made.

Before definite steps are taken to put into execution the plan for the establishment of an industrial bureau through the medium of which it is proposed that the members of the National Association of Clothiers shall handle their labor problems a new draft of the plan is to be submitted to the various clothing markets of the country.

Action in this respect was taken at a meeting of the delegates of affiliated branches of the national association in the Hotel Brevoort yesterday, when the plan submitted to the committee by Jacob J. Abt of Chicago, chairman of a sub-committee charged with formulating the general recommendations with regard to the operations of the contemplated bureau, was discussed.

It was the general impression of the executive committee that before much progress could be made it was desirable that the negotiations for the merger of the Clothiers' Association of New York and the American Men's and Boys' Clothing Manufacturers Association be completed.

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